

## Message Text

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62  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /070 W  
----- 127964

R 151531Z OCT 74  
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 726  
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 154

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)  
SUBJECT: PARTY RESULTS NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL ELECTION

REF: BELFAST 153

1. SUMMARY: UUUC LOYALISTS WON 10 OF 12 SEATS IN OCT. 10  
GENERAL ELECTION INCREASING THEIR TOTAL VOTE PERCENTAGE BY  
7 PER CENT OVER FEBRUARY 28 ELECTION. SDLP WEAK SECOND  
WITH 22 PER CENT. OBSERVERS UNANIMOUSLY INTERPRETING RESULTS  
AS SWING MODERATE LOYALISTS SUPPORT TO HARDLINERS. TOP HEAVY  
VICTORY FOR UUUC AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION ELECTION RAISE QUESTIONS WHEN OR EVEN WHETHER LATTER  
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. THERE ALSO QUESTION LOCALLY WHETHER  
MERLYN REES WILL STAY AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND WHETHER ENOCH  
POWELL WILL HEAD UUUC DELEGATION IN PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) IN WINNING TEN OF  
TWELVE PARLIAMENT SEATS INCREASED OVERALL SHARE OF VOTES FROM  
LAST FEBRUARY FROM 51 PER CENT TO 58 PER CENT DESPITE DECREASE  
IN ELIGIBLES VOTING FROM 70 TO 67 PER CENT. UUUC LOST ONLY TWO  
SEATS, ONE TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) IN  
WEST BELFAST GERALD FITT, AND ONE IN FERMANAGH SOUTH TYRONE  
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WHERE ANTI-UNIONIST INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN FRANK MAGUIRE OUSTED

OFFICIAL UNIONIST LEADER HARRY WEST. UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN  
IRELAND (UPNI FAULKNER) AND NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY (NILP)  
LOST STRENGTH.

3. RESULTS BY PARTY FOLLOW FROM TOTAL POLL 702,094:

	VOTES CAST	PERCENTAGE SHARE OF POLL
UUUC	407,778	58.1
SDLP	154,193	22.0
ALLIANCE	44,644	6.4
UPNI	20,454	2.9
REPUBLICANS		
CLUBS	21,633	3.1
NILP	11,539	1.6
MARXIST/		
LENINIST	540	0.1
OTHERS	41,313	5.8

4. SEASONED POLITICAL OBSERVERS UNANIMOUS IN INTERPRETING  
RESULTS AS LOYALIST SWING AWAY FROM MODERATE TO HARLINE  
UNIONISTS. IN CONGEN VIEW THIS ASSESSMENT TEMPERED HOWEVER  
BY FACTORS INCLUDING ALLIANCE CLAIM OF GAINING 25 PER CENT  
OVER ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, BY SDLP CONTESTING THREE LESS SEATS  
THAN FEBRUARY AND INCREASING VOTE FIVE CONSTITUENCIES, BY  
RELATIVE NEWNESS FAULKNER UPNI AND BY FACT SDLP HOLLYWOOD  
EXTENDED ENOCH POWELL IN SOUTH DOWN. POWELL WON BY ONLY  
3567 VOTES (CORRECTED FIGURE) AND IT SUSPECTED MANY FAULKNER  
UNIONISTS FOLLOWED HINT OF LEADER WHO RESIDENT THERE AND VOTED  
AGAINST POWELL. "OTHER" VOTES INCLUDE 3,690 FOR VOLUNTEER  
POLITICAL PARTY, NOT AUSPICIOUS START FOR "NEW WORKING CLASS  
POLITICAL LEADERS".

5. FOR SIMILAR REASONS PROJECTION VOTING THIS ELECTION TO  
PROBABLE PATTERN VOTING FOR 78 SEATS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
CANNOT BE COMPLETELY ACCURATE. HOWEVER UNDER PROPORTIONAL  
REPRESENTATION SYSTEM ROUGH ESTIMATE POSSIBLE CONVENTION ELECTION  
RESULTS FOLLOWS: UUUC 46 SEATS, SDLP 18 SEATS, ALLIANCE 5, UPNI  
5, REPUBLICAN CLUBS 2, NILP 2. IN LIGHT THIS FORECAST AND  
GIVEN UUUC INTRANSIGENCE OVER POWER-SHARING THERE INCREASING  
SPECULATION LOCALLY AS TO WHETHER CONVENTION ELECTION WILL BE  
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HELD AT ALL. MODERATES AND SDLP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEE AT LEAST  
LENGTHY POSTPONEMENT ELECTION. RELATED TO THIS IS QUESTION OF  
RETENTION SECSTATE MERLYN REES. REES IDENTIFIED PERSONALLY  
WITH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PLAN AND THERE SOME SPEULATION  
PRIME MINISTER WILSON WILL CHANGE THE NORTHERN IRELAND TEAM.

6. DEFEAT OF HARRY WEST WHO UNIONIST SPOKESMAN LAST PARLIAMENT  
RAISES QUESTION LEADERSHIP UUUC WESTMINISTER ENOCH POWELL HAS

ADVANTAGE PARLIAMENTARY REPUTATION BUT FACES OBSTACLES IN IAN PAISLEY AND TO LESSER EXTENT WILLIAM CRAIG. POWELL WIN NOT SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSIVE OVER RIDE THEIR PREFERENCES. JAMES MOLYNEAUX, FORMER UUUC WHIP HAD HIGHEST MAJORITY IN U.K. IN GENERAL ELECTION AND IS FAVORED BY SOME UNIONISTS AS COMPROMISE LEADER BUT HAS REPORTEDLY DEFERRED TO POWELL EXPERIENCE. UUUC EXPECTED SELECT SPOKESMAN AROUND OCT. 20.

7. VOTING BY CONSTITUENCY FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.  
SPICER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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